



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of : **Confirmation No. 8006**
Kouichirou HIRATA et al. : **Docket No. 2001_1888A**
Serial No. 10/018,974 : **Group Art Unit 1645**
Filed December 26, 2001 : **Examiner Jana A. Hines**

METHOD FOR THE DETECTION OF
STREPTOCOCCUS SOBRINUS
AND ANTIBODY USED THEREFOR

RESPONSE UNDER 37. CFR 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING GROUP _____

AFTER FINAL AMENDMENT
AND REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This Amendment and Reply is in complete response to the final Office Action dated December 3, 2003 (*i.e.*, Paper No. 9), and is being filed on or before its now current due date of April 3, 2004. A Petition requesting a one-month extension of time and a corresponding fee accompany this response. Applicants herein provide the following amendments and remarks.